

Dear Mr. Dan Ruben,

This summer I was given the amazing opportunity to work at Human Rights Initiative of Northern Texas (HRI), where we served immigrants who have suffered human rights abuses. I specifically worked on the Immigrant Children's project in which I worked with children who have suffered abuse, neglect, or abandonment by one or both of their parents in their native country. Many of the children we served have experienced unimaginable pain and psychological suffering. From witnessing their parents being killed by gang-members, to being threatened by gang-members to join their gang or be killed. These children have been psychologically scarred and in some cases physically scared due to abuse, rape, and threats of death. So many of the children clients came to the US searching for a better life, a life where they can feel safe in their own home and regularly attend school without worries or threats from gangs. A life where they are given the opportunity and means necessary to survive- like adequate food, shelter, clothing, education.

One client, an 11-year old female had been raped by gang members at age 7 and raped again at age 9. She lived in a country where rapists were rarely persecuted due to corruption and pressure on government officials from local gang members. She traveled to the US alone hoping to find protection, and to live in a home where she would not have to fear experiencing the horrific pain she's experienced twice in her young life time. HRI was able to help her obtain the peace of mind and safety she rightfully deserves. A basic human right we all deserve. Through HRI this individual was able to obtain legal representation that afforded her the protection to remain in the US where she is safe and living in a nurturing household.

These children have experienced much more than I have in my 23-years of living, they have survived abuse, threats, witnessed murders, and have worked to help provide for themselves and their siblings. Working on the Immigrant Children's project is by far one of the most rewarding things I have ever done in my short 23-years of living. I am so fortunate to have had this opportunity to aid children who have experienced so much pain and suffering. Through HRI, these children have been given the opportunity to appear before a judge and apply for Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (SIJS) which grants them parole allowing them the ability to stay in the US legally and eventually apply for permanent residency.

Through this fellowship I have written and submitted court orders, petitions, and briefs for both the Immigration Court and Family Court. I have conducted intake interviews with our potential clients. I have filled out Immigration forms and applications necessary for our child clients to apply for SIJS. I was given the opportunity to go to shelters and screen unaccompanied children for potential SIJS and Asylum cases.

This fellowship has shown me how lucky I am to have grown up in a country where I do not have to fear for my life on a daily basis, where I can regularly attend school and obtain a fruitful education, and where I have the means and opportunity to obtain adequate food and shelter. So many of our clients at HRI, whether an adult or a child, has been through more hardship than most of us can ever imagine. EJA gave me the opportunity to help serve these individuals- individuals who came to this country seeking a better life because they have been wronged by their own country. This fellowship reaffirmed my decision to attend law school and

reaffirmed my passion to help the underserved. I've learned from this fellowship how fortunate I am to be in such a position where I can help so many individuals who have been wronged seek justice and obtain a better life. Without EJA I would not have been afforded such an opportunity to move to Texas for the summer and serve these individuals who so desperately need our help.

Thank you for the extraordinary opportunity and eye-opening experience.

Very best,
Lou Metsu

American University Washington College of Law
Class of 2018



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August 30, 2016

Dan Ruben
Executive Director
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13540 E Boundary Rd.
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Dear Mr. Ruben,

Lou Metsu was a wonderful addition to Human Rights Initiative of North Texas (HRI) during the summer of 2016. Lou's passion for serving our clients and immigrant communities was evident in her work, her interests, and her overall demeanor. During the summer Lou worked in the children's program with a secondary focus on the asylum program. She quickly learned the area of law, and understood the impact of HRI's legal and social services on our clients.

Lou has excellent research and writing skills, and a creative and quick mind for argument development. Lou observed and conducted multiple client interviews, and developed a talent for summarizing the important details of clients' cases for presentation at legal team meetings. Additionally, Lou drafted memos and briefs for a variety of audiences, both legal and non-legal on issues of importance to our clients.

Lou was instrumental in several clients' court cases. Lou observed a variety of court proceedings during her internship, and by the end was able to identify potential difficulties in cases before the court, and offer preventative solutions. Lou's quality drafting of court documents, briefs, and questions ensured a smooth court experience for our vulnerable clients. In fact, a brief that Lou drafted for the court received specific praise from the judge today.

Lou experienced the lifecycle of a case from start to finish, and experienced the way that the timelines can vary within the system. She handled the variations well, and was able to keep track of multiple cases occurring simultaneously.

Lou was a great addition to HRI this summer, and has a future as a great advocate for whatever client population she decides to serve!

Very truly yours,

Marcela Evans
Attorney, Immigrant Children's Project